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Making sense of the world



# THE WEEK

## Junior

THE BEST  
MAGAZINE FOR  
CURIOUS  
KIDS



# Protect the OCEAN

People around the world focus  
on saving our seas p2





# This week's big news



**WOW!**  
The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest ocean, covering more than 30% of the surface of the planet.

Ocean conservation protects many marine animals, like these spinner dolphins.

## New species discovered



A sea cucumber

Scientists found more than 5,000 deep-sea species in the Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and Mexico. These include a new type of coral and a sea cucumber nicknamed "gummy squirrel" (shown above). Most of the species have never been seen before. Researchers hope to learn which of the creatures could be at risk of dying out.

# World Oceans Day to be observed

On June 8, millions of people around the world will mark United Nations World Oceans Day. The theme this year is "Planet Ocean: Tides Are Changing."

## What is World Oceans Day?

The United Nations (UN, a group of 193 countries working together on issues including human rights and climate change) holds World Oceans Day to raise global awareness of the benefits that the oceans provide and to remind people that the seas require protection. The UN gathers policy makers, scientists, business leaders, and youth activists to inspire people to take action on behalf of the world's oceans. This year's theme focuses on the fact that the oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface but have received only a fraction of the world's attention and resources. That is now starting to change.

## What is the day's history?

Judith Swan, an expert in marine law and executive director of the Oceans Institute of Canada, first proposed the idea in 1992, during an environmental summit in Brazil. The idea was to set aside a day to celebrate oceans and raise awareness of the vital part they play in sustaining the health of the environment

and life on the planet. Many countries began observing the day, and in 2008 the UN officially designated June 8 as World Oceans Day. Other organizations, such as the Ocean Project, also run ocean conservation programs on June 8 each year.

## Why do the oceans need protecting?

The oceans are Earth's largest ecosystem and home to millions of species of animals and plants, including coral reefs. More than 3 billion people around the world rely on the ocean for their livelihood and food supply. Oceans provide oxygen to the planet, absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>, a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change), and protect coastal

communities from storms and floods.

But the oceans face many challenges.

Climate change is causing ocean waters to warm up and lose oxygen, which threatens marine life. Oceans are being polluted by chemicals used in farming and food production and by plastic waste from fishing and household products.

Experts say the amount of plastic in the ocean could outweigh the entire fish population by 2050.

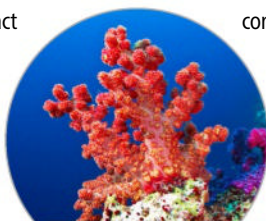
## How is the day being observed?

The UN will hold a virtual event with speakers including marine biologist Sylvia Earle, filmmaker

and oceanographer Fabien Cousteau, and actor Jason Momoa. The UN will also announce the winners of its 10th annual photo competition, showcasing the beauty of the ocean. Astronauts at the International Space Station will deliver a message about the importance of the ocean. Communities around the world will host beach cleanups, art exhibits, theater performances, festivals, and other events. In the US, activities will include a mural campaign in Miami, Florida, and presentations about marine animals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The Ocean Project has created a calendar of events at [worldoceanday.org](http://worldoceanday.org).

## How can people help?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, the US agency that monitors and protects oceans) said people can reduce ocean pollution by limiting the use of water, plastic, and household products containing chemicals. Another step that can make a difference is buying sustainable seafood caught in a way that is less harmful to the environment. Young people can also learn more about the ocean, share what they know, and encourage others to get involved. "Kids have to realize they are very powerful," said Asha de Vos, a scientist who works with children on ocean conservation. Find out more about World Oceans Day at [unworldoceanday.org](http://unworldoceanday.org).



Coral reefs help keep oceans healthy.



## Stolen artifacts recovered in Italy

More than 3,500 stolen historical artifacts were recovered from sites throughout Italy, officials said on May 24. Twenty-one people have been arrested for their role in stealing them.

The artifacts were of “inestimable historical, artistic, and commercial value,” a Carabinieri (Italian police) official said. Among them were more than 1,600 bronze and silver coins from a city in northern Italy, dating from the 300s BCE to the 200s CE. Another collection of coins from the time of the Roman Empire was taken from a city near Rome. Ancient vases, plates, and oil lamps were recovered from a town in southern Italy. Many of the artifacts were stolen by people robbing graves and archaeological dig sites.

Art theft has been an ongoing problem in Italy, prompting the creation of the Carabinieri Art Squad in 1969 to protect its cultural artifacts. A museum for recovered art was opened in Rome in 2022. In a statement, a Carabinieri official said the latest recovery demonstrates “how our territory still holds immeasurable treasures.”



Some of the artifacts



Gert-Jan Oskam walking with the help of the new device

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is a global organization dedicated to curing spinal cord injuries.

## Device helps paralyzed man walk

Scientists in Switzerland announced on May 24 that a new device helped a 40-year-old man walk again, 12 years after an accident left him paralyzed (unable to move parts of the body). It is the first technology of its kind to be successfully used in humans and could help people with similar injuries regain control over their bodies.

Gert-Jan Oskam was in a motorcycle accident in 2011 that injured his spinal cord (a bundle of nerve cells that connects the brain to muscles throughout the body). When the cord is damaged, signals from the brain can't get through to certain body parts. In Oskam's case, this was his legs.

Researchers implanted devices in Oskam's skull and spine. They acted as a “digital bridge,” allowing information to travel from his brain to the rest of his body without passing through the

damaged part of the spinal cord. The implants in Oskam's head detect the signals his brain sends when he tries to move his hips, legs, or feet. These signals are then transmitted to the spinal implant, which stimulates the correct muscles to move.

After about 40 training sessions, Oskam can now walk short distances with crutches or a walker—even when the device is off. This might mean that some nerve cells have recovered. “When I decide to make a step, the stimulation will kick in as soon as I think about it,” Oskam said.

Scientists are hopeful that the new technology will help others in the future, including people whose arms and hands are paralyzed. “This is our true objective,” said researcher Grégoire Courtine, “to make this technology available across the world for all the patients who need it.”



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### HOPE FOR A SPECIES

Five Scottish wildcats were born at Highland Wildlife Park in Scotland. The rare cats are at risk of disappearing in the wild. Calling this an “exciting time for wildcats,” park officials said the kittens are doing very well.



Scottish wildcats



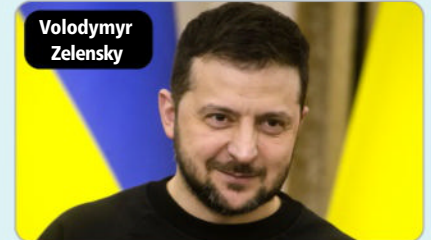
Tharshan Selvarajah

### RIISING TO THE TOP

Tharshan Selvarajah, an immigrant from Sri Lanka who lives in Paris, France, won first prize in the annual contest for the city's best baguette. The traditional bread is a vital part of French culture. Out of 176 entries, his baguette was “very pretty and very, very good,” said a judge.

### A SURPRISE SPEECH

Members of the class of 2023 at Johns Hopkins University were amazed when Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, appeared on a giant screen during their graduation ceremony. Zelensky delivered a speech over a live stream from Ukraine, telling graduates, “All of our tomorrows... depend on each of our today's.”



Volodymyr Zelensky





A view of the Colorado River in Utah

**WOW!**  
The Colorado River is 1,450 miles long and flows through 11 US national parks.

## Supreme Court decision



On May 25, the US Supreme Court voted to reduce the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect wetlands. In a 5–4 decision, the court ruled that the US can provide protection only to certain wetlands connected to another body of water. About half of US wetlands could be affected, some environmentalists said.

# States agree to protect Colorado River

The White House has announced a deal with Arizona, California, and Nevada to reduce the amount of water these three states take from the Colorado River. The river provides drinking water to 40 million people in seven US states and part of Mexico. It also irrigates (provides water to) 5.5 million acres of farmland.

## What is happening to the river?

The volume of water in the Colorado River has decreased by about 33% in recent years due to drought (severe lack of rain), climate change, and population growth. The reduced volume has led to a greater demand for water. In 2022, the water levels of the river's two largest reservoirs—Lake Mead and Lake Powell—dropped so much that officials worried that their hydroelectric systems,

which provide electricity to millions of homes and businesses, might soon stop working.

## How will the river be protected?

Arizona, California, and Nevada agreed to decrease the amount of water they take from the river by about 13% over the next three years. In exchange, the US government will pay about \$1.2 billion to the three states. The states will use part of the money to pay farmers for not raising crops on some of their land, which requires a large amount of water. The states said they would reduce water usage beyond what is in the agreement if doing so keeps the river flowing. If the water level of Lake Mead falls below a certain point, the states would provide a plan for protecting the river.

## How will people be affected?

The region's 40 million people will likely face restrictions in the amount of water they can use. Although the restrictions will not be announced until the deal is formally adopted, some areas are already taking action. In Las Vegas, Nevada, the water authority has banned newly built neighborhoods from having lawns and placed limits on the size of home swimming pools.

## What will happen next?

The US government will formally adopt the agreement, which runs through 2026. Four other states that rely on water from the river—Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—will assess what changes they may need to make to preserve the river.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### BAGUETTE

Today we use the French word “baguette” to mean a long, thin loaf of bread. In the past, it was used as the name for a drumstick, the wooden part of a violin bow, a rectangular gemstone, and a decorative element on a building. All of these meanings look back to the literal meaning of the word, which is a “stick” or “rod.”



## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

**June 10, 2003**

NASA launches Spirit rover to Mars

On June 10, 2003, NASA, the US space agency, launched a rover named Spirit on a rocket toward Mars. The space vehicle was about the size of a golf cart, weighed about 400 pounds, and had eight cameras. Scientists sent Spirit to the red planet to look for traces of water, and it did detect some evidence of water before its mission ended in 2011. Today, the rover Perseverance is exploring Mars.



A rendering of the Spirit rover





Ron DeSantis

Tim Scott

## Two more enter Presidential race

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, both Republicans, have announced they are running for US President in 2024. They join a field of seven other Republican candidates, including former President Donald Trump. Three Democrats have entered the race, including President Joe Biden. Beginning in early 2024, voters will choose which candidate should represent their party in the general election in November 2024.



Charles Q. Brown Jr.

## General chosen for military post

President Joe Biden has nominated Air Force General Charles Q. Brown Jr. to serve as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed by the US Senate (one half of Congress), Brown would be the second Black officer to hold the highest position in the US military, after Colin Powell (1937–2021). Brown is “an unflappable and highly effective leader,” Biden said.



## Endangered species on stamps

The US Postal Service has introduced 20 stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. The law has saved hundreds of endangered and threatened species from becoming extinct (to no longer exist). The stamps feature photos of the endangered animals taken by Joel Sartore. He called the stamps “a tribute to the dedicated people” who have worked to save the species.



Tina Turner in 1985

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Tina Turner's most successful song was her 1984 hit “What's Love Got to Do With It.”

## Singer Tina Turner is remembered

Music fans worldwide paid tribute to Tina Turner, a legendary singer known as “the queen of rock and roll.” Turner, whose powerful voice and dynamic performances inspired many of today's stars, died on May 24 at age 83.

Turner was born Anna Mae Bullock near Memphis, Tennessee, in 1939. Growing up, she sang in a church choir. Her parents had a troubled marriage and left her and her sister with relatives during World War II. Anna Mae eventually reunited with her mother in St. Louis, Missouri, where she was discovered by Ike Turner, a popular singer.

In 1958, she and Ike recorded “A Fool in Love,” which became a hit. Ike had the idea to change her name to Tina, inspired by the TV character Sheena, Queen of the Jungle. The two married in 1962 and achieved their first Top 10 hit in 1971 with their version of the song “Proud Mary.” But Ike was violent toward Tina, and she divorced him.

Without Ike, Tina's career stalled at first. But she had huge success as an individual artist with her 1984 album *Private Dancer*, which won four Grammy Awards (top music honor) and sold 5 million copies. Her “Twenty Four Seven” tour in 2000 sold more than \$100 million in tickets, setting a Guinness World Record for the most concert tickets sold by a solo performer.

Recording artists mourned her death and saluted her achievements. The words “legendary” and “superstar” are often overused, singer Mariah Carey wrote on social media. “And yet Tina Turner embodies them.” Beyoncé wrote on her website, “I'm so grateful for your inspiration and all the ways you have paved the way.”

Turner will be remembered as a performer who overcame great hardship to blaze her own path to enormous success. “My music doesn't sound dated—it's still standing strong,” she told *The Daily Mail* in 2008. “Like me.”



Flowers on Tina Turner's Walk of Fame star in Hollywood, California

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

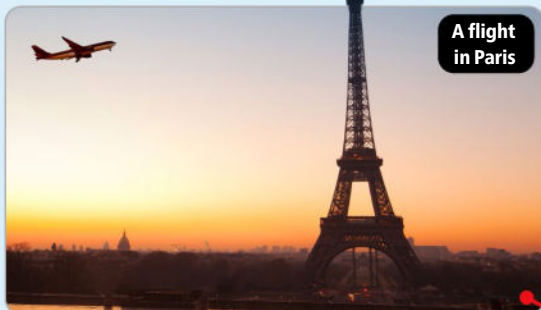
“Squirrel pays a visit to Yankee Stadium during Orioles game” UPI







# Around the world



A flight in Paris



## France

### Government bans short flights

The French government enacted a ban on short domestic (within the country) flights. The law prohibits airline travel if it can be substituted with a train ride of 2.5 hours or less. The government hopes the ban will help cut greenhouse gas emissions (gases that remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, causing the planet to warm up). However, many feel there are too many exceptions to the ban to make any real environmental impact.



Hot lava flows down Mount Etna.



## Catania, Italy

### Mount Etna volcano erupts

The Mount Etna volcano erupted, raining ash on the city of Catania and halting flights to and from its airport. Etna, located on the Italian island of Sicily, is Europe's most active volcano and its tallest at about 11,013 feet high. The volcano erupts several times a year, spewing out lava (hot liquid rock) and ash. An eruption in 2021 lasted several weeks, but this one lasted two days. The airport reopened and no injuries were reported.



Bird flu has hit Brazil.



## Brazil

### Bird health emergency declared

Brazil declared an animal health emergency after cases of bird flu were found for the first time in wild birds within the country. Brazil sells more chicken meat to other countries than any other nation in the world. If the virus, called H5N1, spreads to chicken farms, flocks may need to be destroyed and other countries could stop buying Brazilian chicken.



## Zimbabwe

### Local soccer gets a boost

Attendance at Zimbabwe Premier Soccer League games has risen to an average of about 15,000 spectators, up from 2,000 last season. Interest in local soccer increased after a February 2022 decision by FIFA (the global governing body for soccer) to ban Zimbabwe from competing abroad due to its government's interference in the sport.



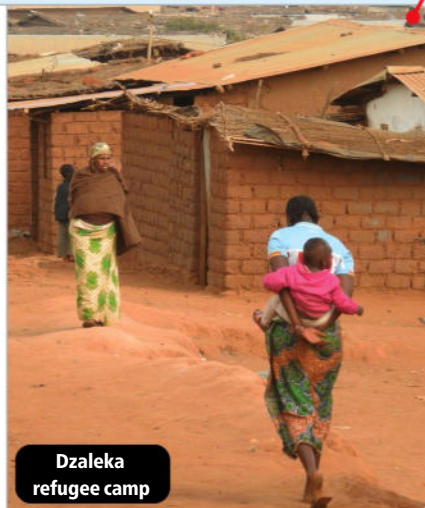
A Zimbabwe team (in blue)



## Lilongwe, Malawi

### Refugees relocated

The Malawi government has moved more than 300 refugees (people forced to flee their home to escape danger) out of its capital, Lilongwe. They were sent to the Dzaleka camp, 30 miles away. The government said refugees are taking jobs from local people, but that was disputed. Aid groups also criticized the government's actions, citing Dzaleka's overcrowded conditions. It was built to house 12,000 people, and 50,000 people now live there.



Dzaleka refugee camp

REUTERS(2); GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HANDOUT; GETTY IMAGES (7)



# Around the world



The new building



## **New Delhi, India** **Building opens amid protest**

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, opened a new parliament (government) building in the capital on May 28. Most opposition parties (those not in power) did not attend as a form of protest. They wanted the opening to be led by India's president, Droupadi Murmu, who is the head of state but doesn't represent a particular party.



Bou Samnang

## **Cambodia** **Determined runner inspires nation**

Runner Bou Samnang has become a celebrity in her home country of Cambodia after her performance in a 5,000-meter race at the Southeast Asian Games, which Cambodia was hosting. Samnang, age 20, came in last place, but her persistence in finishing the race amid heavy rain inspired people throughout the nation. "Even though we go a bit slow or fast, we will reach our destination all the same," she told the news agency AFP.



Members of the Civic Party

## **Hong Kong** **Political party votes to disband**

The Civic Party, one of Hong Kong's biggest political parties supporting democracy (government in which leaders are chosen by the people), has voted to leave politics. Hong Kong, which was led by Britain until 1997, is now ruled by China. Since 2020, laws have made criticizing its non-democratic government illegal. The Civic Party was one of the few remaining pro-democracy parties in Hong Kong.



Sheep take over a road.

## **New Zealand** **Sheep numbers continue to decline**

There are fewer than five sheep for each person in New Zealand, compared to 22 per person 40 years ago. The country is famous for its big sheep population, but a new study shows that there were 25.3 million sheep in the country in June 2022, compared to a peak of 72 million in the 1980s. Falling wool prices have contributed to the decline.

## **Turkey** **Leader reelected**

Recep Tayyip Erdogan was reelected as the president of Turkey on May 28, defeating his opponent, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. Erdogan, who has ruled as president for 20 years, won another five-year term with just over 52% of the vote. The election was a runoff (second vote) after an earlier election on May 14 was inconclusive. Erdogan has expanded authoritarian rule (power concentrated in one leader), while Kilicdaroglu had promised to restore democracy.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan





## The big debate

# Should yearbooks go fully digital?

Some people say hard copies enhance school memories. Others say no to print.

### What you need to know

- Yearbooks are often available in elementary, middle, and high school as well as college.
- The first officially published yearbook dates back to 1806, when a class at Yale University in Connecticut bound a book with names of students and faculty and printed images of students.
- In most schools, students have to purchase a yearbook, which covers the cost of printing. Prices can range from \$10 to \$100 each.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

The oldest known surviving yearbook is from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1823.

Nothing signals the end of the school year like warmer weather, summer plans, and flipping through your brand-new yearbook. Across the US, many students purchase a printed copy of their school's annual yearbook, which is filled with fun memories and photos of friends, teachers, and classmates. Students often sign one another's yearbooks, too, with messages they can read again and again for years to come. Yearbooks are a special tradition, but many people say there's no point in printing them anymore. Instead, there are online versions that students can scroll through and store on their devices. What do you think? Should yearbooks go fully digital?

### Yes—everything is online these days

The average size of a high school yearbook is 140 pages, which uses a lot of paper and is expensive to print. And the more it costs to print, the more it costs students to buy. Digital yearbooks don't kill trees and are more affordable. Printed yearbooks are also big and heavy. Kids have enough to carry around, and they're used to doing their homework and keeping photos on their devices anyway. With digital yearbooks, the editors also aren't limited by space. They can include everyone, which means no one is left out. If there's a mistake, it can be fixed instantly. An error in a printed yearbook lives forever.

### No—print yearbooks are a keepsake

Yearbooks document a special time in life, and a hard copy symbolizes how important and meaningful it is. You can hold it in your hand, flip through the pages at your own pace, and return to things you want to see again. Plus, you can read all the signatures and personal messages from your friends and teachers in their own handwriting. People tend to be more thoughtful when they know something is going in print or they're writing it out by hand. And just because a yearbook is digital doesn't mean it's forever—a computer problem could wipe it out entirely, and those memories would be gone.

**YES**

### Three reasons why yearbooks should go fully digital

- 1 Printed yearbooks waste paper and money. Digital versions are more accessible to all students.
- 2 Yearbooks are clunky and heavy. It's easy to store and look at a digital one.
- 3 If a yearbook is digital, there is unlimited space to include everyone and it's much easier to correct mistakes.

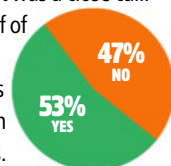
**NO**

### Three reasons why yearbooks should not go fully digital

- 1 A printed yearbook symbolizes how important school memories are.
- 2 It's more meaningful to read handwritten messages, and people are more thoughtful when they know their note will be in print.
- 3 Digital yearbooks aren't necessarily forever. They could get lost or erased, along with all those special memories.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if shouting at youth sports is acceptable. It was a close call: Just over half of you said it's OK for adults to be loud on the sidelines.



### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think yearbooks should go fully digital or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





## Sharing family stories

Pierce Freelon's father and children inspired his new music and writing.

Award-winning musician and children's book author Pierce Freelon has united his two passions by releasing a new children's music album and a new picture book. The album, *AnceStars*, and the book, *Daddy and Me, Side by Side*, both honor Freelon's father, Phil Freelon, who died in 2019.

Phil Freelon was a musician and an architect (a person who designs buildings and spaces), and Freelon grew up watching him erect buildings. One of his father's most notable works is the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

Freelon told *The Week Junior* that his father's death "had me reflecting deeply about parenting and fatherhood, specifically Black fatherhood." As a Black

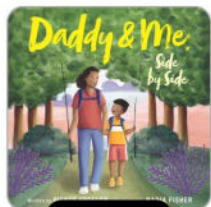
man, he said, it was important for him to show a positive image of being a dad.

The songs on *AnceStars* explore themes of ancestry, and Freelon said he wanted to remember and honor his dad as an ancestor of his family. He created the

album with his mother, Nnenna Freelon.

In *Daddy and Me, Side by Side*, a boy goes on a camping trip with his father after his grandfather dies. Freelon said his father used to take him camping, fishing, and hiking, and he was inspired by the idea of being the child of a nurturing dad. Today, he takes his son on similar adventures.

Freelon hopes that both the album and the book help children to accept love and process loss. "It's OK to miss people who aren't here anymore and to celebrate them by remembering them," he said.



Freelon's new book



Pierce Freelon

**AWARD ALERT**

Pierce Freelon's album *Black to the Future* was nominated for a 2022 Grammy (top music award) for Best Children's Music Album.

## Soccer star's success

Madison Hammond is the first Native American to play in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), and her achievement is the subject of a new mini-documentary titled *Katshtya Girl*. Hammond, age 25, is a defender for Angel City FC, a team in Los Angeles, California. Born in Arizona, she is Navajo, Pueblo, and Black. In the film, Hammond shares her journey from soccer-loving girl to the NWSL. When it comes to being a role model, Hammond said, "I just try to do me as best as I can."



Madison Hammond



Otis Taylor

## A graduate recognized

On May 15, Otis Taylor, age 74, received his diploma from Manual High School in Denver, Colorado, more than 50 years after he was expelled from the school for refusing to cut his long hair. At the time, there were no laws preventing hair discrimination. Today, Taylor, a blues musician, has produced more than a dozen albums and is a member of Colorado's Music Hall of Fame. When the school was made aware that it listed Taylor as a notable alumnus yet had not allowed him to graduate, it wanted to correct its failure of the past, an education official said.

## OVERHEARD

“ ”



**"There is no shame in admitting that you need support. It will be there, just ask for it."**

Award-winning actress Kate Winslet speaking out in support of young people who might be struggling with their mental health





# Animals and the environment

## DID YOU KNOW?

Adult red-footed tortoises can grow up to 16 inches long and weigh up to 30 pounds.



A red-footed tortoise on the move

## Animals that go solo

Lions are the only cats that live in groups. Others, such as snow leopards, independently patrol hundreds of square miles of territory. Turtles start their long lives by hatching and swimming alone. Blue whales usually prefer to swim solo, but if they need to communicate, their calls can be heard 1,000 miles away.



A blue whale

# Solitary animals learn from others

A new study has revealed that despite their preference for living alone, solitary animals learn from other members of their species—just like those that live in groups do.

Numerous research studies have shown how animals that live in groups boost their chances of survival by sharing information. Honeybees, for example, do a dance to show other bees from the hive where to get the best pollen. Mike Webster from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland did a review of many scientific studies that were done on solitary animals. He wanted to understand more clearly how animals

experience social learning—in other words, how they learn from one another.

Webster discovered dozens of examples of social learning in solitary animals, including insects, fish, lizards, octopuses, and snakes. Webster gave the example of South America's red-footed tortoises, which are known to watch other tortoises to learn how to get around a barrier.

Many of the studies he looked at found that learning from others was very efficient, even for solitary species. For example, in one study, freshwater stingrays learned how to get food from feeding devices much more quickly after

watching others do it, rather than trying to figure out how to accomplish the task themselves. Another showed that wood crickets get better at avoiding predatory spiders by observing more experienced crickets and then changing their own behavior.

Solitary animals do mix with other members of their species when they mate and during chance meetings. Even so, they obviously don't have as many opportunities for social learning as animals that hang out with others all the time. Webster thinks that more studies of social learning in solitary species could show how learning developed in all animals—and in humans, too. He also believes that this research could help people improve the ways we work to conserve endangered species.



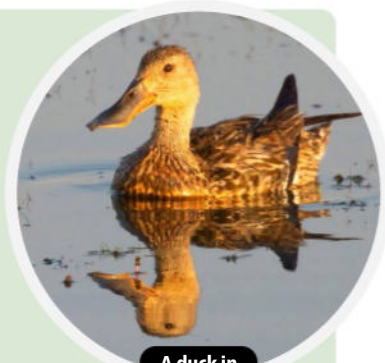
Honeybees teach their hivemates.



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

### Benton Lake Wildlife Refuge, Montana

Benton Lake, about 50 miles from the Rocky Mountains, is actually a shallow wetland that was created thousands of years ago. The refuge, which also includes prairie lands, can be explored with a nine-mile drive, bike rides, or hikes. It is a habitat for more than 200 bird species, including thousands of snow geese, ducks, and tundra swans in the spring; chestnut-collared longspurs and eared grebes in the summer; and gray partridges and northern goshawks in the winter. Other animals that roam the land include pronghorn, coyotes, and the American badger.



A duck in the refuge





## FEARLESS FELINES

Sand cats are fierce predators and will even hunt venomous snakes.



Sand cats blend in as they move through the desert.

## Rare sand cats' lifestyle revealed

Scientists have learned more about the habits of sand cats. These rare cats are slightly smaller than house cats and live mostly in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Their sand-colored fur helps them hide in their desert habitats—which also makes them difficult to study.

Researchers recently spent four years studying sand cats in the deserts of Morocco. They spotted 47 sand cats and equipped 22 of them with tracking collars.

The biggest surprise was the cats' range (the area in which a species can be

found). Scientists previously estimated that sand cats can travel up to 19 square miles a year, but one cat traveled 679 square miles in six months. The researchers now believe sand cats have the largest range of any small wildcat, more closely matching big cats like lions and tigers.

Sand cats travel far to find food, and they seemed to move around as rain and weather conditions changed. This might make them the only wildcat species to live a nomadic (moving from place to place) lifestyle. "There is still so much to learn," one researcher said.

## Animal of the week

### Zebra finch



A study found that zebra finches don't sing as well if they don't practice. If the birds are prevented from singing for two weeks, their songs are lower in pitch and don't last as long. Experts think the practice keeps the birds' vocal muscles strong.

- **LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:** 2 to 3 years
- **HABITAT:** Grassy areas and forests
- **SIZE:** 3 to 4 inches, weighing less than a pound
- **DIET:** Flowers, grass seeds, and insects
- **FUN FACT:** Only male zebra finches sing. Each has a unique song made up of different sounds.



## Good week / Bad week



### Eastern black rhinoceros

An eastern black rhinoceros has been born at the Honolulu Zoo for the first time. The male calf, which weighed about 50 pounds, was born to mom Aria and dad Kendi as part of a Species Survival Plan for the critically endangered species.



### By-the-wind-sailor

Thousands of velellas, also called by-the-wind-sailors, have been washing up on California's shores. The blue jellyfish-like creatures rely on the wind to get around but cannot survive for long onshore. They soon shrink and turn pale.



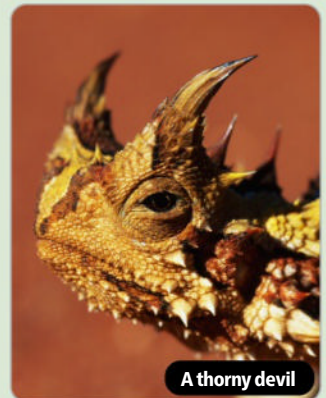
## "Is there any animal that doesn't drink water?"

Adalie, 11, New Jersey

### Andy Snider

Curator,  
Brookfield Zoo

Quite a few species typically don't drink water, although most will if given the opportunity. Some, including koalas and naked mole rats, get moisture from the plants they eat. The thorny devil, a lizard from Australia, has skin with micro-channels that direct the air's moisture to its mouth.



A thorny devil

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about Brookfield Zoo at [czs.org/BrookfieldZoo](http://czs.org/BrookfieldZoo).





# A beautiful array of

**Rainbows are a wonder of science and a symbol to many people.**

When the sun comes out on a rainy day, an arc of colors sometimes appears. Rainbows have fascinated people for centuries.

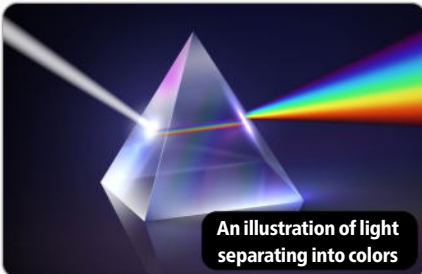
### What is a rainbow?

Rainbows are circles of multicolored light. They usually appear to us as arches in the sky because the ground blocks the bottom half of the circle. We see rainbows when sunlight hits water droplets—for

example, if the sun is out while it's raining. Rainbows often seem to move as we move because they are an optical illusion—their appearance depends on where we are standing and where the light is shining. The colors in a rainbow typically include red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, in that order (often remembered by the acronym Roy G. Biv).



A rainbow on the water's surface



An illustration of light separating into colors

### The science of rainbows

Sunlight looks white, but it includes all the colors of light mixed together. Light is made up of many tiny waves, and when it passes through a raindrop, the waves bend. Each wave bends differently depending on a measurement called wavelength and separates into a spectrum of colors. (Something similar happens when light hits a glass prism, as shown above.) Red light has the longest wavelength and bends the least, while violet has the shortest and bends the most. That's why red is usually on the outside of the rainbow and violet is on the inside. If the light is reflected twice, a double rainbow can appear. The colors of the second rainbow are reversed.

### RAINBOW RECORD

The longest observation of a rainbow lasted for 8 hours and 58 minutes in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2017.

### NIGHT VISION

A rare type of rainbow caused by moonlight is known as a moonbow.

### Rainbows in pop culture

The bright colors of the rainbow have captured the imaginations of many creative people. Rainbows have made their way into movies, TV shows, and games, including the three examples shown here.



#### *The Wizard of Oz*

In this 1939 movie, Dorothy, played by Judy Garland, sings "Over the Rainbow," written by Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg. The song—about wishing to fly "beyond the rainbow" to a place where "dreams really do come true"—has been voted the greatest song of the 20th century.







# colors above

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Not everyone agrees on how many colors are in a rainbow. The Greek philosopher Aristotle said there were only three.

Every rainbow is different, and its appearance is always changing.



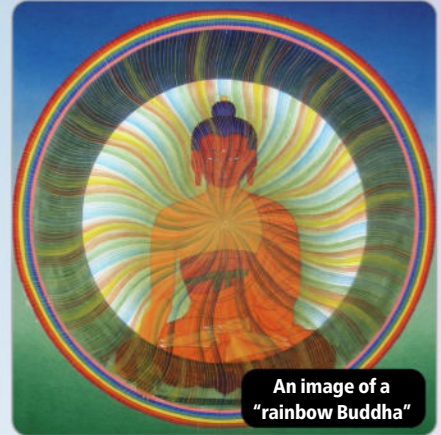
## The Muppets

Kermit first sang his signature song, "The Rainbow Connection," written by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher, in *The Muppet Movie* (1979). Its first lyric asks, "Why are there so many songs about rainbows?" Williams has said that the song is both human and spiritual.



## Mario Kart

Ever since the Super Mario Kart video game debuted in 1992, players have either loved or hated Rainbow Road. Different versions of this challenging course—which is a rainbow-colored, ribbon-like track through space—have appeared in just about every Mario Kart game released over the past 30 years.



An image of a "rainbow Buddha"

## Cultural connections

Rainbows have been part of myths and legends since ancient times. Some cultures believed they were connections between heaven and Earth or bridges to a supernatural world. Rainbows have also had connections to gods and goddesses, such as the rainbow goddess Anuenue, a messenger of the gods in Native Hawaiian beliefs, and the Greek goddess Iris. In the Jewish and Christian Bible, God sends a rainbow as a promise to never again destroy the Earth with floods. Some masters of Buddhism were said to have transformed into a "rainbow body" of colorful light. In an Irish legend, a pot of gold guarded by a leprechaun sits at the end of a rainbow.



A pride parade in San Francisco

## A symbol of unity

In 1978, a politician in San Francisco, California, named Harvey Milk encouraged Gilbert Baker, an activist and artist, to create a symbol of pride for the LGBTQ community. Baker designed a flag with rainbow stripes. Each color had a meaning, including red for life, blue for peace, green for nature, and violet for spirit. The flag caught on worldwide and has inspired many variations, including some with brown and black stripes to represent racial diversity. In Peru and Bolivia, the rainbow flag is a symbol of the Indigenous Inca people. During the Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020, children around the world drew pictures of rainbows and placed them in windows, turning them into a symbol of hope.





## HIDDEN WORLD

Scientists think there could be up to 3.8 million types of fungi, but 90% of them are still unknown.



An estimated 10 million tons of plastic enters the oceans every year.

## New solution for plastic pollution

Each year, the world produces about 440 million tons of plastic waste. Unlike natural materials like paper and wood, which biodegrade (break down) quickly and mix with soil, plastic can take hundreds of years to break down. Now a group of scientists at the University of Sydney, in Australia, have found a way to break down plastic using fungi.

Fungi are a group of plant-like organisms, including mold, mushrooms, and yeast. The scientists focused on two types, called *Aspergillus terreus* and *Engyodontium album*, which are often found in soil. "Fungi are incredibly versatile and are known to be able to break down pretty much all [surfaces]," said Dee Carter, an author of the study. This "superpower," as Carter called it, made the researchers curious about whether fungi could help break down plastic.

In the experiment, the fungi were used to break down a type of plastic called polypropylene, which makes up 28% of the world's plastic waste. It's in items such as packaging, toys, food containers, and bottle tops. Polypropylene is very difficult to recycle because it often gets mixed up

with other materials. Only 1% of it is recycled, and the rest of it ends up in landfills.

The scientists used pieces of polypropylene plastic that were first weakened by exposing them to heat, chemicals, or ultraviolet (UV) light. This helped the fungi do their job faster.

The researchers found that after 90 days, between 25% and 27% of the samples had broken down.

After 140 days, the plastic had completely degraded, which means it would no longer be considered pollution.

The researchers hope this new method will help them learn how plastic might break down under natural conditions. The next step will be to try to speed up the process

and determine whether it's possible to use it on a much larger scale to reduce plastic pollution.

The team is also studying microorganisms (tiny living things) in the sea, such as algae, to see if they are able to break down plastic in the ocean. So far, the results have been even better than the results achieved with the fungi. "We are quite excited about this," said Amira Farzana Samat, one of the study's authors.



One of the fungi, *Aspergillus terreus*, up close

## Bacteria to help the planet



Vulcano Island, Italy

Scientists have found a type of bacteria (tiny single-celled living things) that absorbs carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas very quickly. CO<sub>2</sub> is produced naturally and as a result of human activities such as burning coal, oil, and gasoline. It's a greenhouse gas, meaning it traps heat in the atmosphere and causes the planet to warm up.

The bacteria was discovered in hot springs near the island of Vulcano, in Italy. The team who found it realized it was absorbing large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> that were being produced by a volcano on the island. Experts say carbon capture (removing CO<sub>2</sub>) is a key part of slowing the planet's climate crisis. The team will continue studying the bacteria to learn how it might be a natural resource for carbon capture.





## Mysteries of Asian empire unearthed

Scientists investigating two cemeteries in Mongolia have uncovered new information about a mysterious ancient civilization called the Xiongnu empire.

Xiongnu was a nomadic empire, which means its people traveled around rather than staying in one place. From about 200 BCE to 100 CE, they controlled an area called the eastern Eurasian steppe, which includes modern-day Mongolia and parts of Russia and China.

The Xiongnu were fierce warriors who often invaded parts of China. Not much else is known about the empire because no records written by them have been found. The only known accounts were written by their enemies, which makes them unreliable.

The team of researchers studied DNA (a chemical that carries information about how a living thing develops) in 17 skeletons buried thousands of years ago in Xiongnu cemeteries. They found a mix of DNA, suggesting the empire had many groups of people from different places working together.

The team discovered that most of the coffins featuring Xiongnu symbols of power — a golden Sun and Moon — belonged to

women, which suggested that women were powerful in Xiongnu society. The women were also buried with objects that showed wealth, such as necklaces, belts, and, in one case, six horses and a chariot. Men and older boys were buried with bows and arrows.



A Sun and Moon from a Xiongnu coffin



An illustration of Xiongnu people

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Chinese people began building the Great Wall of China to stop the Xiongnu from invading.



Bears hibernate for up to six months a year.

## How hibernating bears stay healthy

When people are still for long periods of time, such as during a plane ride, they can develop a medical problem called blood clots. But when bears don't move for very long periods while they hibernate, they don't get blood clots. Scientists in Germany recently figured out why.

Humans and bears have a substance called a protein in their blood. If they have a cut that causes bleeding, the protein helps the blood thicken so the wound can heal. But

this same protein can cause a dangerous blood clot to form inside the body, which blocks blood flow.

The team studied blood samples taken from 13 wild bears during summer and winter. In the samples from winter, when the bears were hibernating, there was less of the blood-clotting protein. This reduced the bears' risk of blood clots when they weren't moving much. The team hopes to help develop new drugs to prevent blood clots in people.



## A headset that includes scents



The headset and scent mask

Scientists in China have made virtual reality (VR) even more real by using the power of smell. VR is a computer-generated 3D world that people can see through special headsets. The team created a face mask with nine small odor-generating devices in it.

If the user approaches an object in VR that would have an odor in real life, such as a flower, the mask releases a comparable scent. The smells come from liquid perfumes stored inside the devices. When a smell is needed, the liquid is heated to 122° F to activate the fragrance.





# Photos of the week

THESE PHOTOS  
ARE PROVIDED BY  
**THE OCEAN  
AGENCY,**  
A NONPROFIT GROUP  
DEDICATED TO MARINE  
CONSERVATION.



## Deep dive

This image of a diamond squid was taken by Mike Bartick.



## Bright spots

Kimberly Jeffries took this photo of a harlequin shrimp.



## Underwater journey

A moray eel swims through coral in this picture by Warren Baverstock.

BETH WATSON; FRANCIS BALEN; GREGORY PIPER; KIMBERLY JEFFRIES; MIKE BARTICK; WARREN BAVERSTOCK



# Photos of the week



## Massive and majestic

Francois Baelen captured this picture of a humpback whale.



## Blue beauty

This photo of a linckia, a type of sea star, was taken by Gregory Piper.



## Happy hues

Beth Watson snapped this image of a fairy basslet fish.







# Sports



Josef Newgarden

**FUN FACT**  
In 1911, the first Indy 500 took close to seven hours—more than twice as long as a race today.

## Historic race location

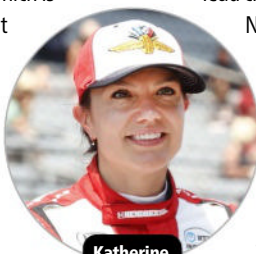


The famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway was built in 1909 as a testing site for cars. At the time, local roads were not well suited for driving. The oval track originally had a surface of gravel, rocks, and tar, but that caused accidents and was replaced by 3.2 million bricks.

# American driver wins Indy 500

On May 28, drivers competed in the 107th Indianapolis 500, an important event in the IndyCar Series, an elite level of American championship car racing. The race, which is known as the Indy 500, takes place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indiana. It consists of 200 laps around a 2.5-mile track, making the entire race roughly 500 miles long. More than 300,000 fans attended the event this year.

In a thrilling finish, Josef Newgarden became the first American to win the Indy 500 since 2016. It was his first win in 12 attempts. "I just felt like everyone kept asking me why I haven't won this race," he said afterward. He added, "I knew we could."



Katherine Legge

Thirty-three drivers started the race, including British driver Katherine Legge, the only woman in the field. During the competition, there were 52 lead changes among 14 different drivers.

Newgarden, who began in the 17th position, led for five of the 200 laps. Due to several crashes, only 17 drivers finished the race, but no one was seriously injured.

Swedish driver Marcus Ericsson, last year's Indy 500 champion, finished in second place.

Heading into the final laps of the race, Ericsson was leading and Newgarden was in second. A crash on the track led to a red flag (stop), which paused the competition. Once it was cleared, officials waved a green flag (go)

and a white flag (one lap remaining). Newgarden overtook Ericsson and beat him to the finish by .0974 of a second. It was the fourth-closest finish in the history of the Indy 500.

The way the race ended created controversy. Ericsson did not think drivers were given enough time to warm up their tires before the final lap. He said the race should have ended under a yellow flag (caution)—a change that would have made him the winner. Other drivers agreed with the decision and thought it made the finish exciting.

After the race, Newgarden exited his car and ran into the stands. He later poured a bottle of milk over his head, an Indy 500 tradition. "I'm just so thankful to be here," he said. "I started out as a fan in the crowd, and this place is amazing, regardless of where you're sitting."

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### PRO BASKETBALL

In Game 7 of the NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals on May 29, the eighth-seeded (ranked) Miami Heat beat the second-seeded Boston Celtics, 103–84, to make the NBA Finals. The Heat's Jimmy Butler, who had 28 points in Game 7, was named the Most Valuable Player of the series. The Heat now play the Western Conference Champions, the Denver Nuggets, for the championship title.



The Miami Heat

### NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

The Vegas Golden Knights beat the Dallas Stars, 6–0, to win the NHL Western Conference title on May 29. They will face the Florida Panthers, the Eastern Conference champions, in the Stanley Cup Final.

### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

On May 27, Oklahoma University (OU) beat Clemson University, 8–7, for its 48th straight win. OU now holds the record for the longest winning streak in Division 1 softball history.





**DID YOU KNOW?**

Lacrosse has Native American roots and is the oldest team sport in North America.



Winners from Northwestern (left) and Notre Dame

## College lacrosse crowns champs

Over Memorial Day weekend, men's and women's teams competed in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 lacrosse championships. Northwestern University won the women's title for the first time since 2012, while the men's team from the University of Notre Dame won its first title ever.

The women's final was played on May 28 at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina. In the game, Northwestern, which was the top-seeded (ranked) team in the tournament, beat the third seed, Boston College, 18–6.

One Northwestern player made history in the fourth quarter. Attacker Izzy Scane scored a goal that was the 288th goal of her career and also her 99th of this season, setting new records for her college's program. She was named the Most

Valuable Player of the tournament. Northwestern has now won eight women's lacrosse titles.

The men's final was played the next day at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In that game, Notre Dame, which was the third seed, beat the number one seed, Duke University, 13–9.

Notre Dame's consistency during the game was a key factor in the win. After Duke scored the first goal, Notre Dame did not allow another one for the rest of the first half, and they had a 6–1 lead at halftime. Duke's offense woke up in the third quarter, but Notre Dame still kept the lead. The score was 9–7 going into the fourth quarter, and Notre Dame held on for the win, thanks in large part to goaltender Liam Entenmann, who had 18 saves in the game.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



### Aneesah Morrow

AGE: 20 SPORT: BASKETBALL  
TEAM: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

When *The Week Junior* interviewed Aneesah Morrow, she was a player at DePaul University. Shortly after, she announced she was transferring to Louisiana State University (LSU), home of the current women's college basketball national champions. She said in a press release that she planned to help "push LSU toward continued success in seasons to come."

**Family game** I was born and raised around basketball. My mother played basketball for the University of Nebraska. She was also a coach. Everybody asks who is my favorite basketball player, and I would say my mother even though I never really got to watch her play.

**Early lessons** I've had three knee surgeries, and those experiences taught me a lot. The first time, it showed me you have to slow down and trust the healing process. After the second one, I learned you have to stay focused on your goal and not force anything. And my third surgery taught me to sit, listen, and pay attention to detail.

**Time off** I know that you can get overwhelmed or feel exhausted sometimes. I will take a mental health day to regroup, and it really helps.

**Top moment** Last year, I had 27 rebounds in a single game, which was a Big East Conference record. That's my biggest accomplishment.

**Playing perk** You could be going through a lot or be stressing over school or your personal life, but for me, basketball is an escape to a happy place.

**Her advice** Never let anybody tell you what you can and cannot do. Stay focused on the goal you've set for yourself, and work hard at it on a daily basis.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Elli Stanford**

Team: **La Grange Celtics Soccer Club**

**"Coach Elli makes playing soccer so much fun! At games, the focus is not on winning or losing—she just cares if we try our very best. Not only has she taught us about soccer, we have also learned about how to be good and responsible people in life! She makes me love soccer and want to keep playing and improving. I couldn't ask for a better first travel soccer coach, and I hope she stays in the US forever. We are lucky to have her!"** Nora, 8, Illinois



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.





**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Missouri Botanical Garden opened in 1859 and is a National Historic Landmark.



Dale Chihuly's *Fiori Boat* (2018), front, and *Fiori di Primavera* (2023), background, at the Missouri Botanical Garden

## Glass art pairs with nature

Colorful pieces by the famous artist Dale Chihuly are on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The exhibition *Chihuly in the Garden 2023* recently opened at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. It features new and existing works by Dale Chihuly, an American artist known for large, colorful glass installations as well as drawings and other art.

Chihuly, age 81, grew up in Tacoma, Washington. He began studying glass in college and later learned more about glassblowing by working at a glass factory in Venice, Italy. After losing sight in his left eye in 1976,

he stopped blowing glass. Instead, he directs a team at Studio Chihuly in Seattle, Washington, to create the works. Many of his pieces are displayed in buildings and gardens around the world. Vickie Campbell of the Missouri Botanical Garden told *The Week Junior* that Chihuly gets art lovers outdoors and helps them "see art in a new light."

The exhibit has 20 installations made up of thousands of pieces of glass. One piece, the *Vivid Lime Icicle Tower*, was made specifically for the garden. All the art came from Seattle in

five 53-foot trucks, and it took a team three weeks to assemble and place the pieces around the garden's 79 acres. They have been put in specific locations with the intention of "enhancing the beauty of nature and amplifying the appreciation of the natural world," Campbell said.

Seeing Chihuly's art in daylight is special, but a unique aspect of his glass is how it looks lit up at night. "The way light travels through and exposes the transparent material is powerful," Campbell said. Visitors can see the effect at evening events called Chihuly Nights. However, she added, seeing the exhibit any time of day "will be magnificent."



Dale Chihuly

### More Chihuly in the US

#### Washington

Chihuly Garden and Glass opened in Seattle in 2012. The museum is filled with the artist's work, including a 100-foot-long suspended sculpture in reds and yellows.



#### Ohio

The Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus has 18 installations of Chihuly's work in its permanent collection. Among them is *Yellowtail Chandelier*, a 12-foot-long sculpture that was created in 2003.



#### Indiana

It took five years for Chihuly's team to create *Fireworks of Glass* (2006), which is on display at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. The work stands 43 feet tall and is made of 4,800 pieces of glass.







**FUN FACT**  
At least 263 streets in the US have been named after Secretariat—more than for any other athlete.

Secretariat in 1973

## Exhibit honors top racehorse

A new exhibit at the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, is paying tribute to Secretariat, one of the best racehorses ever. *Secretariat: America's Horse* opened in time to mark the 50th anniversary of the horse becoming a Triple Crown winner. To earn the rare Triple Crown, a horse must win three important US races—the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes—in the same year. They are usually run in May and June.

Secretariat, nicknamed "Big Red" for his chestnut color, was a stallion (male) born in Virginia in 1970. He captured the nation's attention in 1973 when he became the first horse in 25 years to win the Triple Crown. The museum's curator of education, Emily Dippie, told *The Week Junior* that the exhibit is "a celebration of the amazing accomplishments of Secretariat and his team."

*Secretariat: America's Horse* helps visitors learn about Secretariat's life and world. There are high-tech projections of his races, as well as a section with a replica of his body to help show what made him such an incredible athlete. "Secretariat had a heart 2.5 times the size of a normal thoroughbred heart," Dippie said. Other items on display

include a US postage stamp featuring the horse and costumes from the 2010 Disney movie *Secretariat*.

There is also a giant replica of his horseshoe that is about 7 feet tall and weighs more than 600 pounds.

One human featured in the exhibit is Secretariat's owner, Penny Chenery. She was a pioneer for women in thoroughbred racing and died in 2017. Her son, John Tweedy, said the exhibit will not only introduce a new generation to Secretariat but will also "inspire greatness for anyone who walks through."



Part of the exhibit



## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



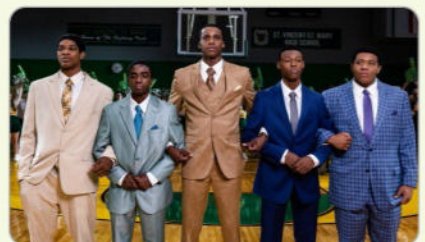
### Lego Ninjago: Dragons Rising (Netflix)

This new animated series is set in a Lego world where different realms have mysteriously merged into one. Now a legendary Ninja master must train teen heroes to save the planet from villains who want to use dragon energy to wreck the world.



### Kamp Koral (Paramount+)

The *SpongeBob SquarePants* prequel series about a young SpongeBob at camp is back with new episodes. Storylines will include SpongeBob and his best friends Patrick and Sandy being placed in separate cabins, and Sandy inventing a device to help avoid doing chores.



### Shooting Stars (Peacock)

See what high school was like for professional basketball star LeBron James. This new movie, based on a book about his life, follows teen James and his friends as they become the top high school team in the US. It is rated PG-13 for language and some mature themes.



## READER RECOMMENDS



### Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* (Netflix)

"This movie has catchy songs, fun dances, and empowered characters. The plot is nearly the same as the 1996 movie *Matilda* but with minor changes. Matilda grows up in a family who does not appreciate her, and she spends most of her time at a mobile library. At school, she meets a super-kind teacher and makes many friends. The teacher realizes Matilda is a genius, but the mean principal does not accept her. Matilda and her friends try to take down the principal and be treated fairly. Matilda is confident, courageous, and not afraid to speak her mind." Emma, 13, Iowa

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## On screen

### DID YOU KNOW?

Peridot is a type of gemstone and is typically yellowish green in color.



Creatures from Peridot

# Take care of a virtual pet

**P**eridot is a new augmented reality (AR) pet simulator game. It is available now as an app in the Apple App Store and Google Play. It is similar to Pokémon Go, a game that uses AR to make digital creatures appear in an environment. Both games were created by the software company Niantic.

When Peridot kicks off, you are presented with three colorful eggs. Inside them are creatures called Dots, which have unique looks and personalities. You choose an egg, and once it hatches, you become what is known as a Keeper.

To interact with your Dot, you use the camera on a phone or tablet. As you look at the screen, the Dot will appear where the camera is pointed. Kellee Santiago, head of production at Niantic, told *The Week Junior* the game encourages kids to get

outside. "Dots love nature walks and adventures and can tell the difference between terrains like dirt, water, grass, sand, and concrete," she said.

As a Keeper, your job is to play with and care for your Dot so it grows. You can pet it with screen taps or draw circles on the screen to show it where to look for food. In the AR world, a sandwich can pop up where your device is pointed. Peridot also has add-ons that can be purchased, such as clothes, toys, and food, but they are not required to keep a Dot happy. As they get older, Dots can develop new physical traits, such as goat horns, llama ears, or an asparagus tail.

Once a Dot is grown, it can hang out with other Dots. All you need to do is find friends or family members who are also Keepers and make a connection online.



A Dot



## VIDEO OF THE WEEK

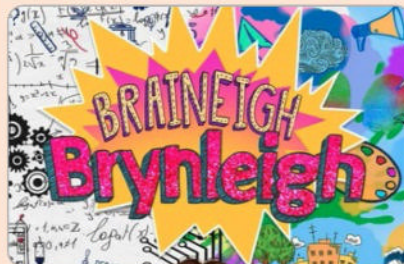
### THE WORLD JIGSAW PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Jigsaw](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Jigsaw)

The world's largest jigsaw puzzle competition took place last year. In this video, Guinness World Records goes behind the scenes to check out the styles of different competitors and learn how they handle the stress of the event.



## PODCAST OF THE WEEK



### BRAINEIGH BRYNLEIGH

GZM App

Fans of the Six Minutes podcast series are already familiar with Brynleigh Pasternack, a spirited, fashion-loving fictional teen who is also a writer and former YouTuber. As the host and star of this show, she shares her life story and thoughts of the day, plays her oboe, and more.

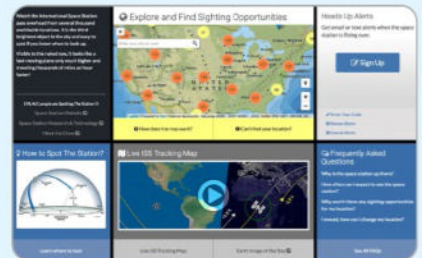


## WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

### SPOT THE STATION

[spotthestation.nasa.gov/](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/)

The International Space Station (ISS) is the third brightest object in the sky, and this site from NASA (the US space agency) pinpoints where and how to see it. Select a location from anywhere on Earth, and it will give you the time and exact coordinates for when the ISS will pass by.







**OUR BOOK CLUB PICK FOR JUNE**

## Lei and the Fire Goddess

By Malia Maunakea  
(Penguin Workshop)

Every summer, Anna travels from her home in Colorado to spend a few weeks with her grandmother, who lives in a remote village in Hawaii. Her grandmother believes in Hawaiian curses, but 12-year-old Anna doesn't. On a walk in the forest with her friend Kaipo, Anna picks a special type of flower that her grandmother has warned her will upset Pele, the fire goddess. To Anna's surprise, removing the flower triggers an earthquake and sets off a volcanic eruption. Then a giant hawk kidnaps Kaipo. Could her grandmother have been right all along, or is what happened a coincidence? Anna goes on the adventure of a lifetime as she tries to rescue Kaipo and save her grandmother's house from a path of lava. Talking animals, shape-shifting, and a big family secret are all part of the action. Plus, there are a couple of huge twists involving the main characters. If you like reading about mythology, you won't be able to put this book down. You'll get a glimpse into Hawaiian culture, myths, legends, and food through the book's many characters.



### Ask the author



When Malia Maunakea's son started loving the Percy Jackson series, she got the idea to write a book about Hawaiian mythology. *The Week Junior* spoke to Maunakea about her new release *Lei and the Fire Goddess*.

### Did you grow up in Hawaii?

Yes, I was born on Hawaii Island (what's often called the Big Island) and lived there until seventh grade. I moved to Colorado for college, and that's where I live now. One day, after my kids are grown, I want to move back to Hawaii.



### Describe your favorite Hawaiian food.

I have a sweet tooth! It's a toss-up between coconut syrup to put on pancakes and strawberry-mango shave ice with mochi balls and a scoop of ice cream.



### What do you think is the best quality to have in a friend?

A great quality in a friend is to be an active listener and to take the time to hear about how your friend's day is going. When I was a child, I struggled most with listening.

### Fill in the blank: My favorite part about summer break is \_\_\_\_\_.

Sleeping in!

### Do you have a hobby?

I love to hike. I let my mind turn off as I wander outside.



### How long did it take you to write this book?

I completed the first draft in four months. But the revisions took two years!

### Do you have any advice for kids who want to be writers?

Even if English isn't your strongest subject, stick with writing if you like it. I was told to focus on math and science because I was better at those subjects. But I kept writing, and it's so fun.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

From complex characters to surprising twists, there's a lot to talk about with friends and family who have also read this fantasy novel. Use these questions to kick off your conversation.

**Do you think Anna should have to go visit her grandmother in Hawaii every summer? Why or why not?**

**What strategies could Anna use to feel more confident about her heritage around her classmates?**

**How could Anna be a better friend to Kaipo?**

**Did this book remind you of any other stories you've read? If so, which ones?**

**What mystical element of the story appeals to you the most?**

**Were you surprised by Pele's behavior? Why or why not?**

**How does Anna grow as a person in the story?**



### WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Lei and the Fire Goddess*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to [contests@theweekjunior.com](mailto:contests@theweekjunior.com) with *Lei and the Fire Goddess* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on June 23. See [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms) for complete rules.



### JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Malia Maunakea created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at [kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub).





# How to...



## ON A ROLL

In 1863, James Milton of Massachusetts invented the first modern roller skate featuring two sets of parallel wheels.

# Give roller skating a try

Get ready to enjoy exciting new adventures on wheels.

Roller skating is good exercise, builds balance, improves your mental focus, and boosts your confidence. You can skate around a roller rink to pop tunes or roll through a local park enjoying the outdoors. Here's how to get started.

## Put on your gear

You can head to a local roller rink, which should have all the gear you need, including skates, a helmet, and pads, to rent for a small fee. (The helmet and pads—like wrist guards, knee pads, and elbow pads—help protect you if you fall while learning.) Nearly all rinks today offer two kinds of skates: quads and inline skates (also called rollerblades). Quads are traditional skates, with two pairs of two wheels in the front and back. They can be ideal beginner skates for kids because they're easier to maneuver. Later, you might try inline skates, which have a single row of wheels and are designed to pick up speed.



Lace up quad skates.

## Practice the "ready" position

Start simply. Practice standing on your skates. Pick a bench outside the rink. From a sitting position, use your hands to push off and stand up. Grab onto something, if needed, until you get your balance. Then sit back down and try it again a few times. Once you feel comfortable standing on your skates, you can practice getting into

the "ready" position. This position helps you stay balanced while standing and is where you'll start from before you roll forward. To get in ready position, stand up straight with your feet a hand's-width apart, bend your knees slightly, and lean forward a little.

## Start rolling

Once you've got the hang of the ready position, it's time to start moving. Adjust your feet so your heels are pointed inward and your toes are pointed out. (It should look like you could have a slice of pizza between your feet.) Begin by "marching" on your skates—pick up one foot and move it forward, then move the other foot forward, keeping your toes turned outward. As you march, your wheels will start to glide forward. Allow yourself to slowly glide farther and faster, keeping your knees bent. You can stretch your arms outward for extra help with balance.

## Master stopping

Learning how to stop is as important as learning how to roll. Your quads may have a brake that looks like a round rubber cylinder under the toe, while braking systems on inline skates vary. Go slow while you practice so you can get a feel for how much pressure you need to apply in order to stop. This can be tricky at first but will get easier with practice.

## 4 more skating sports to check out

Once you know the basics, you might be interested in one of these activities on wheels.

### Roller hockey

Sometimes called street hockey, this sport is played at a roller rink or outside. Two teams face off using sticks and pucks to score goals.



### Artistic skating

Similar to figure skating on ice, artistic roller skating is



when people perform choreographed routines to music while on roller skates. Routines can include tricks like spins and jumps.

### Speed skating

Athletes on inline skates race around a track to see who can cover a certain distance in the shortest amount of time. Many people compete in both roller-skating and ice-skating events, as the sports are similar.



### Roller derby

This is a contact sport with two teams of five skaters. One



skater (who wears a star on their helmet) tries to lap the other team's skaters in order to earn points, while the other players try to block them.

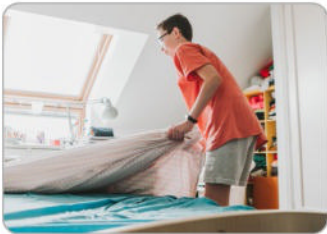




## MAKE YOUR BED IN THE MORNING

You can keep your room tidy and also sleep more soundly at night after you climb into a neatly made bed. Here's how.

- 1. Start with clean sheets.** Pull a corner of a fitted sheet (the one with elastic on each corner) over one of the upper corners of your mattress and tuck it underneath. Repeat with the other three corners of the bed, smoothing out the sheet in between. Place the top sheet evenly over the bottom sheet, and neatly tuck it under the mattress at the foot of your bed and along the sides.
- 2. Add some layers.** Next, place a light blanket on the bed. Drape it evenly, then tuck it under the mattress at the foot and sides. Next, you can top it with your comforter or a decorative quilt. Instead of tucking it in, hang it over the sides of your bed evenly.
- 3. Arrange your pillows.** Slide your pillows into fresh pillowcases and put them at the head of your bed. Add decorative items, like throw pillows or stuffed animals, to put the finishing touches on your cozy sleep space.



**FUN FACT**  
The Vidalia, a type of sweet yellow onion, was made the official state vegetable of Georgia in 1990.

**WARNING!**  
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

## Mix up caramelized onion dip

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 yellow onions, finely chopped
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup sour cream
- Minced chives, for serving
- Vegetables or potato chips, for serving

### Instructions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, combine the butter and olive oil and cook until the butter melts.
2. Add the chopped onions and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring often, until the onions are deeply golden brown and caramelized, about 25 minutes.
3. Stir in the balsamic vinegar, scraping the bottom of the pan with a spoon. Take the mixture off the heat and carefully set aside on another burner. Let cool.
4. In a large bowl, add the cream cheese and sour cream and mix well. Stir in the onion mixture until evenly combined throughout.
5. Transfer the dip to a serving bowl and sprinkle with chives. Serve with veggies or potato chips (or both) for dipping. Makes about 2 cups of dip.



**ECO TIP**  
OF THE WEEK

### ORGANIZE A GROUP CLEANUP

Litter —like discarded boxes, bags, or other trash— is not only unsightly but harmful to the environment. If animals accidentally eat trash, it can make them sick, and garbage that ends up in waterways can cause pollution. You can help by organizing a community cleanup, whether at a nearby playground or a beach. With an adult's help, pick a date, invite friends, and post fliers to spread the word. Include the time and place to meet, and ask everyone to bring garbage bags and gloves. On the day of the cleanup, remind volunteers to be safe and let adults pick up anything sharp. When it's time to wrap up, remember to thank everyone for volunteering.



Everyone can pitch in.





# Puzzles



## Word ladder

To change the word CALL into the word BACK, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



Collection of stores, sometimes with a food court

Like a rooster, bull, or peacock

Lion's "hairdo"

Goodall (primate expert)

Father's Day month

Broken-down appliances, flat tires, etc.

beds (one on top, one on bottom)

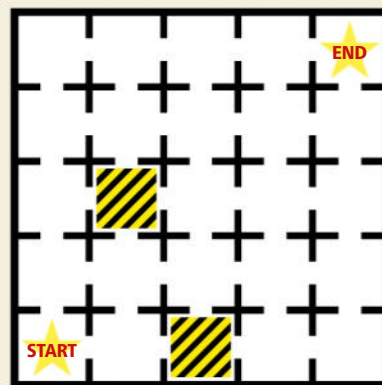
Place that pays you some interest

C A L L

B A C K

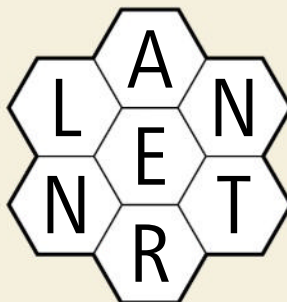
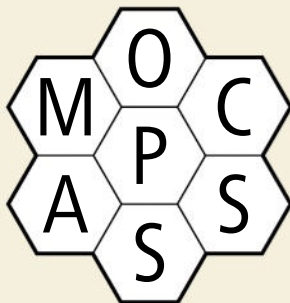
## DO NOT ENTER

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every box except the ones containing obstacles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



## STEPPING STONES

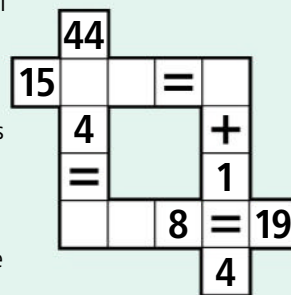
Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter piece of camping gear. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

## Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



## Spot the difference

These two pictures of kids roller skating appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







The show featured fun-sized furniture and a mini mug (top).

## Big show for tiny objects

An Illinois convention center recently welcomed thousands of people who appreciate the little things in life. People from 21 countries made their way to the Chicago International Miniatures Show to buy and sell itty-bitty objects for dollhouses. The event also included workshops for people who want to learn more about making miniatures. Among the items for sale at prices ranging from \$1 to hundreds of dollars: barbecue sets, chocolate fondue fountains, and light-up aquariums. One vendor sold teensy dogs made with real dog hair.



For Joe Daturi, it's better where it's wetter.

## 100 days under the sea

Joe Daturi has broken a record for the longest time spent living underwater. Daturi, a 55-year-old professor who calls himself Dr. Deep Sea, earned a Guinness World Records title by living in a habitat made of steel and glass, 30 feet deep in a lagoon in Florida, for 73 days. That wasn't long enough, though. He didn't leave the 100-square-foot habitat even after achieving the record, saying "my mission doesn't end here." Daturi plans to remain for 100 days, studying how the human body works in an extreme environment. "I'm having the time of my life," he said.



The multicolored mollusk

## A vibrant shoreline surprise

A woman searching for aquatic wildlife along a UK seashore came across a colorful surprise. After picking up a large rock, "something extremely bright and unusual caught my eye," said Vicky Barlow. It was a rainbow sea slug, a rare mollusk that is typically found in the warmer waters of Spain, France, and Portugal. Barlow said she carefully placed the sea slug in a pot and watched "in complete awe" as it unfurled and began exploring. Then she returned the animal to the rock pool. "It had quite the personality," she said.

Real or fake?



Are tacos folded up in controversy?

## Taco Tuesday gets even spicier

Who has the right to use a famous food phrase? That's the question Taco Bell recently posed to the nation. A rival company, Taco John's, owns the official trademark for "Taco Tuesday" and can stop other restaurants from using it. Taco Bell has filed an appeal with the US Patent and Trademark Office, asking it to "liberate" the phrase so that "all who make, sell, eat, and celebrate tacos" can say "Taco Tuesday" freely. Is this the taco truth, or do you think the story will crumble?\*

\*Real! Taco John's said the phrase has "been ours for 34 years, and we're very proud of that." But Taco Bell said, "To deprive anyone of saying 'Taco Tuesday'... is like depriving the world of sunshine itself." It could be years before the case is resolved.





# Your turn

## Editor's note

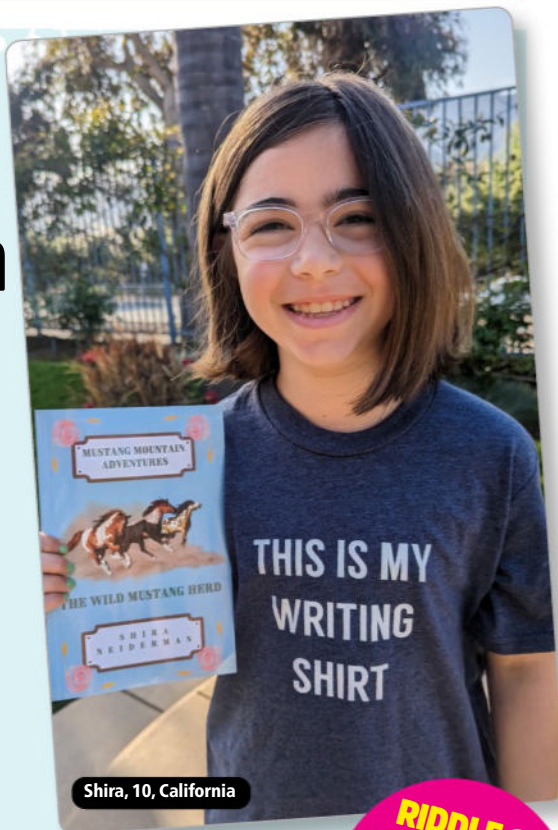
When this issue of *The Week Junior* went to press on May 30, people across the globe were preparing to celebrate World Oceans Day (p2). We are so pleased that we can bring this day to your attention and hope it inspires you to learn more about the Earth's largest ecosystem. Oceans are truly incredible. They supply oxygen to the planet, absorb harmful carbon dioxide, and provide a home to millions of species of animals and plants. (See a few of them in our special edition of Photos of the Week on pages 16 and 17.) To continue doing all this and much more, they need protection. Governments, scientists, and nonprofit organizations can do their part, and so can all of us, whether by reducing the amount of plastic we use or helping with a beach cleanup. If you take action, I would love to hear about it! Write to me anytime at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

Andrea Barbalich  
Editor-in-Chief



## Writing to inspire compassion

“In second grade, my teacher was able to help me improve my writing skills. During this time, I also fell in love with a horse book. I wanted to write (and ride!) as much as possible. In my free time, I started writing a story that I would want to read—one set in a beautiful location with horses, friendship, adventure, and mystery. With my parents’ support and my aunt’s guidance, I published my chapter book through BookBaby. I have donated some of the proceeds to RideOn, a nonprofit group that specializes in providing kids with access to therapeutic riding. I hope to inspire others to follow their passion!”



Shira, 10, California

**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**

What jumps into the pool with you but doesn't get wet?

Your shadow

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



### Surfrider Foundation

The Surfrider Foundation works to protect oceans. The group organizes beach cleanups, advocates for laws to protect ocean habitats, and ensures public access to beaches. It also works with schools, colleges, and restaurants to reduce use of single-use plastics, which can be harmful to animals in the ocean. Since its founding in 1984, it has grown to have more than 80 chapters across the country. Find out more at [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org).



## Tell us about your school!

Charlie, who is 9 years old and in third grade, told us that a fun activity at his school is when kids put in tickets and some of them get picked to win a special basket during Catholic Schools Week. Charlie also said his school has special shirts that make it stand out. If you'd like to share what's great about your school, go to [kids.theweekjunior.com/activities](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/activities) to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues of *The Week Junior*.

### What's great about your school?

Name: Charlie Age: 9 Grade: 3  
What's a fun event or activity at your school? What makes it special?  
A fun activity at our school is Catholic Schools Week. What makes it special is you put in tickets and sometimes get picked to win a special basket.  
What do you think makes your school stand out?  
What makes our school stand out is we have I AM SETON shirts.



THE WEEK  
Junior

**IT'S YOUR TURN**

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures of you in them! Have an adult email them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you would like us to know about what you're doing in the photo.



"I made the rainbow toast bread from *The Week Junior's* April 14 issue, and it was really good." **Oliver, 10, Tennessee**

"I bought *The One and Only Ruby*—then I realized it was in *The Week Junior* too! The book is fun, with lots of animals." **Rachel, 8, New York**



"I love *The Week Junior* so much that I keep my past issues to reread!" **Hudson, 10, Massachusetts**



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Marendia**

School: **Seneca Grade School**

"Mrs. Marendia is very kind. She will help you if you don't understand something, and if you get lost, she will get you on track. She is fun and lets us do fun things often. She gives us less homework and allows us to get most of it done in class. She is also very nice to others, and she cares if you need help.

**Mrs. Marendia is awesome!"**

Avery, 11, Illinois

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**

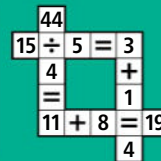
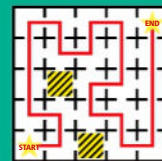
**Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**



## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder

c a l l  
m a l l  
m a l e  
m a n e  
J u n e  
j u n k  
b u n k  
b a n k  
b a c k



Stepping stones  
compass, lantern



## Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 b) Underwater 2 True 3 c) 2008 4 Augmented reality 5 False. They travel across a wide range in their lives. 6 c) University of Notre Dame 7 Pierce Freelon 8 c) UK 9 b) Four 10 False. It has the longest wavelength. 11 Fungi 12 c) Pele 13 Italy 14 b) Glass 15 True

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.





# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** Joe Daturi earned a world record for the longest amount of time spent living where?

a) In space b) Underwater c) In a desert

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**2** True or false? The Xiongnu were a nomadic people in what is now Mongolia.

True ☐ False ☐

**3** In what year did the United Nations officially name June 8 World Oceans Day?

a) 1992 b) 1998 c) 2008

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**4** The video game Peridot makes digital creatures appear in a real-world environment using what technology?

**5** True or false? New research found that sand cats don't travel far during their lives.

True ☐ False ☐

**6** Which team recently won its first NCAA championship in men's lacrosse?

a) Boston College b) Duke University

c) University of Notre Dame

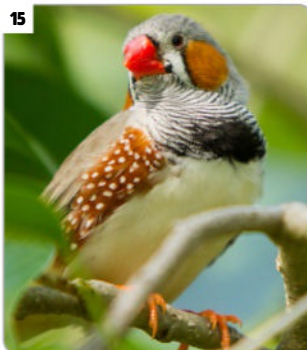
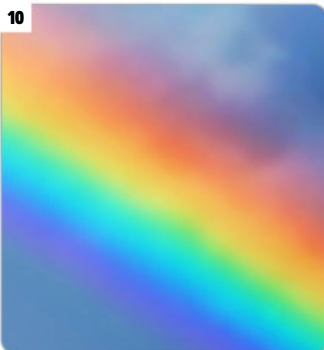
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**7** What musician and author created a new album and book in honor of his dad?

**8** In what country was a rainbow sea slug recently discovered?

a) US b) Canada c) UK

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.



**9** How many Grammy Awards did Tina Turner's 1984 album *Private Dancer* win?

a) Two b) Four c) Six

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**10** True or false? In a rainbow, red light has the shortest wavelength.

True ☐ False ☐

**11** What type of plant-like organism was used to break down plastic in a recent experiment?

**12** In the book *Lei and the Fire Goddess*, Anna picks a flower that her grandmother says will upset what goddess?

a) Poli-ahu

b) Laka

c) Pele

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**13** More than 3,500 stolen artifacts were recently recovered in what country?

**14** An exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden features art by Dale Chihuly that is made of what material?

a) Wood b) Glass c) Yarn

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**15** True or false? The songs of zebra finches don't last as long if the birds are not able to practice.

True ☐ False ☐

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TO JOIN THE FUN



# Keep kids reading all summer long!

*The Week Junior* invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend and create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

**Makes  
a great  
gift!**

**To order a 25 weekly issue subscription  
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**NATURAL  
WONDER**

The Grey Glacier in Chile is part of the Patagonian Ice Field, which measures over 100 square miles and is one of the biggest stretches of ice on Earth.